



SRI PARTHASARATHY SWAMI SABHA

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**SANGEETHA
SARATHY**



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**Invites you to a
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Wishing Sabhas, Artistes and Rasikas a Memorable Season



2019 Sangeetha Kalasarathys



PROF. T.N.KRISHNAN



DR.T.V.GOPALAKRISHNAN



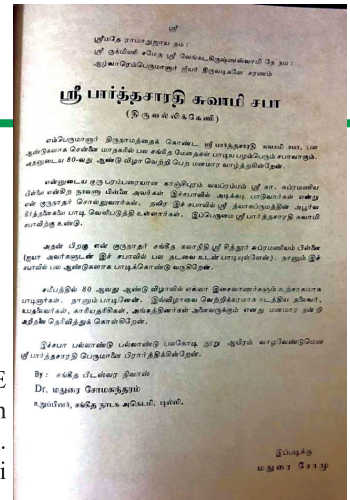
GURUVAYUR DORAI

from the Archives

Legendary vidwan Madurai Sri Somasundaram, whose birth centenary is celebrated this year, had sent a note on the occasion of the 80th year of Sri Parthasarathy Swami Sabha. He mentions in the note that three generations of vidwans in his guru parampara, Kanchipuram Sri Nayana Pillai, Chittoor Sri Subramania Pillai and Somasundaram himself had performed in this sabha. He fondly recollects the days of his singing with his guru Chittoor Sri Subramania Pillai and his continued association with the sabha. **THREE GENERATIONS** including Shri Madurai Somasundaram have performed in the Sabha. Legend Vidwan Shri. MADURAI SOMU wishing our Sabha during our 80th year Celebrations in the year 1980. wanted to share on the occasion of his Centenary Year Celebrations. 3 Generations including Shri Madurai Somasundaram have performed in the Sabha.



21-4-1980
Music: Concert by Dr. Madurai Somu & Party



Sangeetha Kalasarathy Dr.T.V.Gopalakrishnan

T V Gopalakrishnan is being crowned Sangeetha Kala Sarathy this year. He went nostalgic and said that he was associated with Parthasarathi Swami Sabha from its Hindu High School days, a sabha which is more than 100 years in its ageless age. "There were only a few sabhas during those times, The Suguna Vilas Sabha for instance. I remember that I had come to Chennai (Madras) in 1951 and since 1952 I can say proudly that I have been associated with Sri Parthasarathi Swami Sabha.

In my Isai Payanam (இசைப்பயணம்) it has always been with me. I played for Dwaram Venkatasami Naidu himself who has showed me other avenues. This sabha has always had a class standing, the kind of audience, I mean. I have had the experience of playing during the days of Sri Doraisamy Iyengar and Sri Rajagopalan who were the men in-charge at that time. At this sabha the way in which they received you with all kindness has always been exemplary.

The way in which they utter the words vaango sir (வாங்கோ சார்!) used to be with sincerity and feeling. I have sung with Palghat Mani Iyer here, brought Jesudas to sing here. In fact I was present when Jesudas received the award. I can call this award, Sangeetha Sarathy, is equal in status to that being given by the Music Academy. When this sabha functioned at their own premises I have sung for them. If I remember correct Sri Seshadri was then the Secretary of the Sabha. During those days it had a small stage but the concerts used to be full-house. Iyengar (Ariyakudi), Madurai Mani Iyer and Palghat Mani Iyer all top-notch artists those days, always had something special for the audience at this sabha.

I have always observed that the seriousness of a concert was maintained throughout and there used to be pin-drop silence. In that way it is a sabha that is both traditional and indeed professional by all means. I am really proud and happy to the core on receiving an award from such a sabha.

- As told to S. Sivakumar

Sangeetha Kalasarathy Guruvayur Dorai

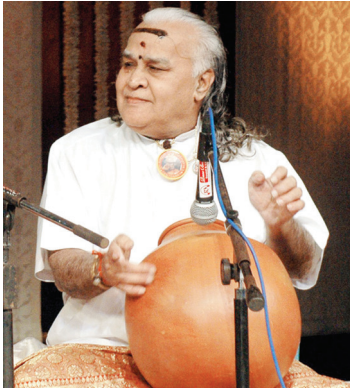
Senior mridangam exponent Guruvayur Dorai is being decorated with the award Sangeetha Kala Sarathy this year. His career in percussion spans across seven decades. He recalls his early years and his concerts in Sri Parthasarathi Swami Sabha.

"I performed for my sister Guruvayur Ponnammal's concert first in Sri Parthasarathi Swami Sabha in 1946. Smt.Komalavalli Srinivasan was on the violin and my brother Rajamani on the Kanjira. We were all excited to perform in Madras and the concert saw huge audience that day. My family and I relocated to Madras in 1949, after I performed here, with Sri Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar. Since then, I have been a regular at Parthasarathi Sabha. I have even played with Palghat Sri Mani Iyer here. I remember the concerts with doyens like Sri. T.K. Rangachari, Sri. Sattur Subramania Iyer among many others at this sabha in the Hindu High School campus in Triplicane. I have performed alongside the senior vocalists to instrumentalists like young Mandolin Srinivas. I am very happy to receive this award from Sri Parthasarathi Swami Sabha with whom I have an association for more than 70 years. I suggest that they continue to choose only the deserving musicians for conferring the awards and titles."

- As told to Revathi R

PALGHAT MANI IYER CENTENARY AWARD VIKKU VINAYAKRAM

Vikku Vinayakaram, a name synonymous with the Ghatam, is receiving the Palghat Mani Iyer Centenary Award from Sri Parthasarathi Swami Sabha this year. He said that he has been associated with this sabha almost from its inception. What is crucial for him is that it is only at this Sabha that he got his once-in-lifetime chance of playing alongside Mani Iyer. It is a matter of happy coincidence that he gets the award in the name of Palghat Mani Iyer where he broke new ground with the same stalwart, he said with fond remembrance. It was Ramanuja Iyengar's concert with T



N Krishnan and Palghat Mani Iyer. He still remembers and recalls how he was with this sabha from the days in which it had its dais located at Venkatramangam Pillai Street in Triplicane. He also can visualize the scene of concerts being held in open air with a simple pandal over their heads. He

says this Mani Iyer Centenary award is equal to the life-time achievement award conferred on him by the Music Academy. On some prompting, as he had become an international carnatic music star years ago, he also talked on the future of carnatic

music: Carnatic music, especially vocal music became popular only after Smt. M.S. sang at the UNO. There were not many sabhas during those days abroad, say in the USA, or France or Dubai. These days well-established sabhas exist at all these places. Now instrumentalists are in great demand and even a Ghatam solo kutcheri takes place over there. Technology has also helped in a long way. Gone are the days when you had to rely on the tape-recorder. Skype is there for learners and for listeners devices have been found to even webcast live kutcheries. All this is indicative of how carnatic music is improving. Don't you think so? (He asks us) There are many youngsters performing and there is a desire to learn too. Let us hope this trend continues. As this positive situation exists, I am really proud to receive this award in the name of Palghat Mani Iyer.

- As told to S. Sivakumar

Sangeetha Kalasarathy

Prof. T.N.Krishnan

For Prof. T.N. Krishnan, the nonagenarian performing musician for more than eighty years, the title Sangeetha Kalasarathy is yet another feather in his cap. He happily recollected his association with Sri Parthasarathy Swami Sabha from the early years of his career in music. "My relationship with Parthasarathy Sabha is from 1943. I first performed for Semmangudi Srinivasier and then for many great vidwans like Ariyakudi, GNB, Alathur Brothers, Madurai Mani Iyer, 'Flute' Mali ... I used to live in a house in Triplicane High Road and this sabha used to organise concerts in the third floor of the Hindu High School building. When the Sunday concerts were set to begin at 4.25 p.m., the concert hall used to get almost full by 4.15! People squatted in the hall and listened to the concerts well beyond three or four hours.

Sri Parthasarathy Swami Sabha is a very old and prestigious institution. I have a high regard for them and they for me too. I never spoke about my remuneration with them. Even now, I tell artistes to perform at the sabha without asking any questions. The people in the committee of the sabha were and continue to be very nice and the audience is very appreciative too. In those days, the listeners used to send requests in chits and the vidwans also sang them taking the concert to more than four hours. They stayed back till the end of the concerts. On a lighter side, as a young boy playing violin in concerts, I used to be amused by the row of monkeys sitting in the wall and quietly observing the concerts!

I have also listened to the concerts of many vidwans here. If I am here as a performing musician even at this age of 92, it is because of the experience of playing and listening to the maha vidwans, all of whom, I consider my guru and the blessings of god."

- As told to Revathi R

G. RAMANATHAN AWARD

RAJKUMAR BHARATHI

A very creative classical singer and music composer, Rajkumar Bharathi receives G. Ramanathan Award this year. Rajkumar Bharathi, great grandson of Mahakavi Subrahmanya Bharathi, learnt music from stalwarts like Valliur Gurumurthi, Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna and Dr. T.V. Gopalakrishnan after having his early training with his mother Lalitha Bharathi. He shares his thoughts on the award. "I am thankful to Sri Parthasarathy Swami Sabha for choosing to give me the award. I am a great admirer of G. Ramanathan Sir and so I feel honoured to receive this award. As many people are already aware, I am now a full-time music composer, mainly for dance ballets and themes. I have performed a few vocal concerts for Parthasarathy Sabha and have enjoyed performing there.

- As told to Revathi R

DWARAM VENKATASWAMI NAIDU AWARD



M A Krishnaswami

M A Krishnaswami is being bestowed with the Dwaram Venkataswami Naidu award. He told us about the great parambariyam (tradition) that Sri Parthasarathy Swami Sabha is known for as it was started more than 100 years ago. He said "I feel singularly proud as I am receiving this award which had been given to my father Sri M S Anantharaman and also to my brother Sri M A Sundareswaran. I have been playing concerts right from the age of 13 and have been with AIR for the past 32 years. Being with AIR has given me the opportunity of playing for mahans like Semmangudi sir and Balamurali sir. You know that our tradition starts from Parur Sundaram Iyer, and has come to be known as the Parur School. Like a great Banyan tree it has had its branches through my father Sri MSA and my uncle (chithappa) Sri MSG and then on to my brother MAS and myself MAK and then passed on to my brothers sons and daughters and my children. It would continue like this for years in the future too. I bow down before my father and my uncle on receiving this award and it is all only due to their blessings (anugraham). I have to perform better than before after receiving this award. This sabha, has been providing many opportunities to perform to many, specially to youngsters. Sri Krishnamurthy along with Sri Saskiran are running this sabha with great enthusiasm and interest and are doing great service to music. To get an award from such a sabha is indeed one of the happiest moments in my life.

- As told to S. Sivakumar

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- ◆ We value your feedback about this newsletter
- ◆ You are welcome to share your thoughts on the concerts and lec-dems you attend here at Sri Parthasarathy Swami Sabha.

Mail them to - sangeethsarathy@gmail.com

GOTTUVADYAM NARAYANA IYENGAR AWARD ALLAM DURGAPRASAD

Being a Top Rank artiste in All India Radio, Allam Durgaprasad took to gottuvadyam at a very young age. He receives the Gottuvadyam Narayana Iyengar Award for Vishesha Vadyam instituted by Chennai Fine Arts.

He spoke about his learning, career and his instrument fluently. "I am happy to enter into Sri Parthasarathy Swami Sabha through this award. I have been performing for more than 30 years in prestigious festivals in India and abroad. I had the fortune of playing with stalwarts like Kaaraikkudi Sri. R.Mani, Vellore Sri.

Ramabadran, Sri.Yella Venkateswara Rao and many other great vidwans playing mridangam in concerts. I am a Kalaimamani awardee from the Tamil Nadu State Government. But this award for vishesha vadyam in the name of Gottuvadyam Sri Narayana Iyengar is very special to me. My father Allam Koteeswara Rao is a disciple of Gottuvadyam Narayana Iyengar. I am proud that I am receiving an award in the name of my father's guru. I dedicate this award to my father, from whom I had my initial training and to my guru Sri. A. Narayana



Iyer. I am looking forward to performing at this prestigious sabha."

- As told to Revathi R

PADDHATHI Music Fest

Sri Parthasarathy Swami Sabha and Sri Vedantha Desikar Devasthanam jointly present Paddhathi Music Fest from December 25 to 31, 2019.

Venue: Sri Desika Vidhya Bhavanam, 27, Venkatesa Agraharam Road, Mylapore, Chennai 600 004

The concerts are held from 10 a.m. onwards. Many leading artistes from India and abroad are scheduled to perform here. The concerts are open to all.

Global Heritage Art Fest

Carnatica, USA and Sri Parthasarathy Swami Sabha present an art festival from December 15 to 25, 2019.

Music concerts of young and senior artists, thematic Bharatanatyam recitals, dramas by popular theatre groups are scheduled at this fest.

The venue is Sri Sankara Vidyashramam Matriculation Higher Seceondary School auditorium, 3rd Main Road, Thiruvannmiyur, Chennai - 41.

Rasikas are welcome for all the events.

Dr. M.L.V. AWARD J. A. JAYANTH

Jayanth has become the darling of the crowds wherever he goes. He is being given the Dr. MLV award this year, and he spoke fluently: "I deem it a great honour to be receiving this award, the Dr. MLV award, instituted by Sudha Akka, as I have always been a great fan of MLV Amma's music. In fact I feel it is a part of cycle as way back in 1967-68 my Thatha, Sri T R Sankaran had played as accompanist for MLV Amma in place of the violin. Flute for violin! These days they are trying out this as an experiment but they had thought of it way back. Thatha had left for Delhi in 1969 and this happened before that. That was a concert arranged by Nadopasana Srinivasan sir. I was not even



born that time. I think a recording of this may be available with HMV Raghu sir or probably at the AIR's archives. This kind of a concert is both daring and unusual. I say this because MLV Amma's sequence of sangathis and phrasing is a task if it has to be reproduced on the flute. My thatha was also closely associated with MLV Amma, and I am really happy to receive this award. Mr. Sasikiran also told me that I am the first instrumentalist to be receiving this award as it was primarily meant for vocalists."

- As told to S. Sivakumar



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